



WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP SEMINAR

October 10 – 20, 2006

Mission Inn

Riverside, California

What is the Watershed Partnership Seminar?

The Watershed Partnership Seminar helps people learn and improve the skills necessary to promote the growth and development of local partnerships that can persist over time. This course addresses these needs within three basic themes.

One theme concentrates on identifying, building and maintaining watershed management partnerships. Course participants will:

- build self-awareness skills that will enable them to recognize how their own behaviors and attitudes can contribute to or erode community partnership dynamics;
- learn personal skills to better deal with interpersonal and group conflict, and to enhance adeptness and effectiveness when working in local watershed management partnerships;
- learn how to use an interest-based, goal-oriented approach to build and maintain relationships to increase the effectiveness of long-term sustainable watershed management, and;
- examine multiple organizational development elements and learn how to combine them in various ways to enhance specific partnership communications, efficiency, productivity and performance.

A second theme is to investigate the historical and scientific bases for the watershed-based approach. This involves interactive exchanges of information with eminent scientists and academicians that will include:

- the evolution of the science of ecosystems and the watersheds that support them (including co-adaptive systems science, macroecology and complexity theory);
- the growing understanding of the relationships and roles of governance and economics in sustaining watershed resources;



- the future of environmental management in a watershed context (how watershed management integrates science, technology and sociology), and;
- the need to recognize, acquire and utilize appropriate scientific and technical information in watershed planning, assessment and decision-making (scientists will explain, with examples, the prominent roles hydro-geomorphology, plant and animal ecology, chemistry, monitoring and modeling play when planning for sustainable watershed management).

A third theme provides more opportunities to learn about the watershed approach itself from watershed management practitioners and professional environmental managers:

- Watershed environmental management practitioners will make presentations about their efforts, and then work interactively with the participants to exchange information regarding real examples, basic skills and the foresight needed, potential pitfalls, and the rewarding results of watershed partnering and decision-making.

History of the Watershed Partnership Seminar

The CALFED Watershed Program (Program) held the Watershed Partnership Seminar in California in 2001, 2003, and 2006. The Seminars are intended to increase the effectiveness of locally-driven community-based watershed management initiatives in support of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Those classes graduated 114 participants who continue to contribute to implementing the Program across California. The next Seminar, scheduled for October 2006, continues the Program's commitment to support local capacity building to improve the management of watersheds affecting the Bay-Delta system.

The Watershed Partnership Seminar was originally designed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW) and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The Seminar was intended as a management development class for agency managers within the EPA to support the agency's community-based environmental management initiatives targeting wetlands and water quality. Eventually, OWOW invited participants from outside the EPA to join the classes in order to bring greater diversity of perspectives and backgrounds to the Seminar. The Seminar quickly gained national accolades as an excellent training course, made more valuable through the extensive network established among its graduates.

Who should attend the Seminars?

The course is intended for middle to upper management and other professionals. Students selected for the course are specifically chosen to represent the range of interests and skills likely in any given watershed community. Past graduates include agency directors; managers and supervisors from local, state and federal agencies; tribal leaders from multiple Native American communities; trade group executives (including the Silicon Valley Manufacturers Group, the Northern California Home Builders Association, and Farm Bureau); local elected officials and professional local government planners; not-for-profit organization executives and board members; and a range of other occupations that includes ranchers, forest product company managers, and educators and environmental professionals. ***We are particularly interested in strong candidates from the San Joaquin and Southern California regions, and from local governments, special districts, and water agencies anywhere in California for the next seminar in October 2006.***

What can I expect at the Seminar?

This course is designed as an executive level course. Past participants have benefited from both the Seminar and the long-term *esprit de corps* among the participants and faculty. It is an intense and fast-paced learning experience, with emphasis on direct application of lessons learned in the past 20 years of advances in watershed science and management techniques.

The Seminar is an experiential learning exercise. The class is arranged with small teams, each of which will develop a management plan for a specific watershed during the course of the class. That will allow real-time application of lessons learned in an actual watershed context. Each team will deliver their final product at the end of the Seminar. Teams will develop an organizational structure for themselves, do research, apply lessons learned each day, and contribute their own individual skills and expertise as they work to complete their watershed management plan.

The course begins on Tuesday morning, October 10, and will conclude Friday afternoon, October 20. Teams typically work throughout the intervening weekend, although no class time is officially scheduled. Team projects often require work to be done outside of scheduled class hours.

Each day has an extended midday break to allow participants to check emails, make telephone calls, or otherwise stay connected with "life outside" the Seminar. High speed internet connections will be provided, as will typical office equipment such as printers and copiers. Participants will attend all scheduled classes and participate in all group functions, including one all-day field trip. Each is also expected to attend the closing function mid-day on Friday of the second week.

Accepted participants will be awarded an education grant that will cover all instruction, materials, class related transportation, room, and most meals. It will not cover transportation to or from the Seminar, nor will it cover incidentals such as telephone calls, movie rentals, etc. Meals covered will be only those provided as part of the Seminar.

How do I apply for a grant?

Applications are made through a nomination. Anyone may nominate a candidate, and self-nominations are accepted. To complete a nomination, visit the Watershed Program website at

www.baydeltawatershed.org

and follow the links to the on-line nomination form. All applications and nominations must be received before July 21, 2006. You may also obtain a hard copy of the application by contacting Julie Alvis (916-445-5459) and return the completed form to: California Bay-Delta Authority, Watershed Program Partnership Seminar, 650 Capitol Mall, 5th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact:

Julie Alvis (jalvis@calwater.ca.gov)

or

Dennis Bowker (dennisbowker@volcano.net)

What have others said about the Seminar?

"This experience is full-out, hands-on, no slack. That's good. I've enjoyed the experience even it if means I fall behind at my real work. I see this workshop as having a direct impact on my real work"

"Very dense Seminar – excellent job. For me, the speakers' ability – polish, finesse, ease – really helps when subjects are tightly compacted"

"Fantastic!"

"This was wonderful – like lots of activities that really helped team building"

"I was really amazed at how the learning process and creativity was so good with so little time and sleep. We should all be proud and it reflects good instruction"

"Inspiring and creative"

"THANK YOU - THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT PROGRAM! MORE, MORE!"

**CALFED BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY
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